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# THE INVISIBLE ENEMY



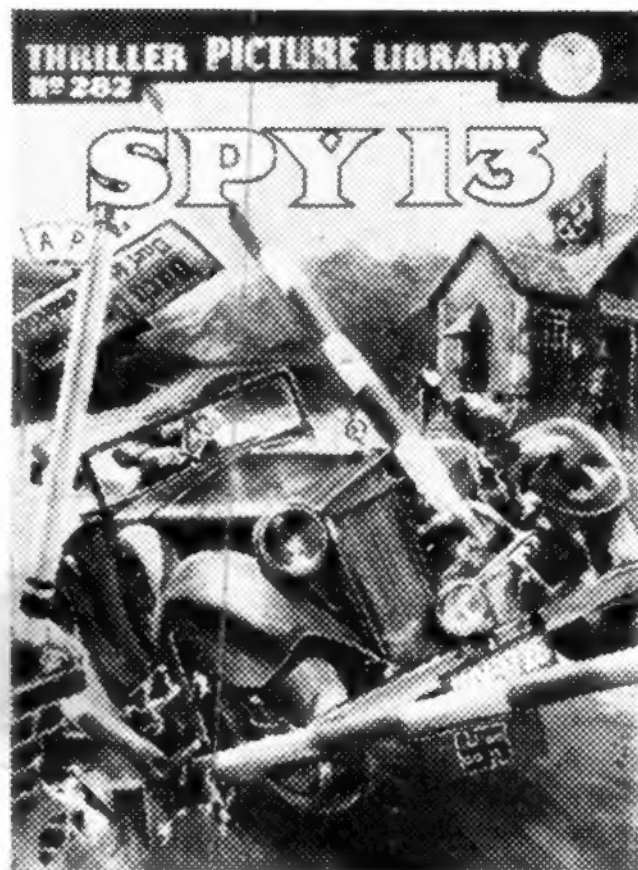


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# *The INVISIBLE ENEMY*

D-DAY, JUNE 6TH, 1944. BY AN INCREDIBLE FEAT OF PLANNING, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE MOST CAREFUL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ENEMY'S DEFENCES, THE ALLIES WERE ABLE TO LAND A VAST ARMY ON THE ENEMY OCCUPIED COAST OF EUROPE, AND ACHIEVE AN ALMOST COMPLETE TACTICAL SURPRISE.



## Chapter 1

## D-DAY PLUS

IN NEARLY FIVE YEARS OF WAR, RECONNAISSANCE HAD BECOME A HIGHLY SPECIALISED ART, ENTRUSTED TO A PICKED BAND OF TRAINED MEN, THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS.

THERE'S A STRONGPOINT SOMEWHERE OVER THE RIDGE, LIEUTENANT. IT'S GIVING US A BIT OF TROUBLE. WILL YOU SEE IF YOU CAN PINPOINT IT FOR US?

I'LL SEND OUT A COUPLE OF SCOUT CARS, SIR.



IT WAS THE MOMENT WHEN MONTHS OF TRAINING BECAME STARK REALITY FOR THE MEN OF TROOP 'C'.

WATCH OUT AS YOU REACH THE CREST OF THE RIDGE, SERGEANT ROBERTS. THERE'S SOME HEAVY STUFF UP THERE. KEEP IN WIRELESS CONTACT.

RIGHT, SIR.





FAST, HIGHLY MANOEUVRABLE, CAPABLE OF GREAT SPEED EITHER FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS... THE SCOUT CARS DASHED FROM COVER TO COVER UP THE GRASSY SLOPE.



AS TROOPER 'BLANCO' WHITE, SERGEANT ROBERTS' DRIVER, STEERED THE SPEEDING DINGO SCOUT CAR TOWARDS THE WOODS, THEY CAME UNDER FIRE FROM A SAND-BAGGED MACHINE-GUN NEST.



## The Invisible Enemy

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THEY HIT  
A DIRT PATH THROUGH THE TREES...  
AND SWUNG ON TO IT...**AND THEN...**

SHARE THIS  
AMONGST YOU,  
SQUAREHEADS!

IN ONE SEARING EXPLOSION, THE ENEMY  
POSITION WAS WIPED OUT...





TWO HUNDRED YARDS FARTHER ON, SERGEANT ROBERTS DISMOUNTED AND CREEPT FORWARD TO A POSITION FROM WHICH HE COULD LOOK OVER THE BROW OF THE HILL.

H'MM! THERE ARE THE CULPRITS... ONE-O-FIVE MILLIMETRE HOWITZERS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAY ON A SHOOT ON THEM.



THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION WAS THE PRIDE OF THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS AND SOON, IN RESPONSE TO JOHNNY'S MESSAGE, A BARRAGE OF SHELLS WAS SENT WHISTLING TOWARDS THE ENEMY BATTERY.

LEFT  
TWENTY, DOWN  
FIFTY!



# The Invisible Enemy

AND AS THE GERMAN GUNS FELL SILENT, ALLIED INFANTRY BEGAN TO ADVANCE ONCE MORE.

HERE COME THE POOR PERISHIN' FOOT-SLOGGERS!

AND THAT'S ANOTHER JERRY-MACHINE GUN OPENING UP FROM ALONG THE RIDGE...WE'D BETTER TAKE A HAND.



JACKS OF ALL TRADES, THE RECCE MEN GAVE FIERCELY ACCURATE COVERING FIRE TO THE BRITISH TROOPS.

NICE WORK, SARGE...THAT'S KEPT THE JERRY'S NUTS DOWN!





WHILE THE ADVANCE WAS BEING CONSOLIDATED, THE TWO SCOUT CARS REJOINED THE REMAINDER OF TROOP 'C' IN 'HARBOUR'.



PUT HER IN THERE, SERGEANT. THERE'S TIME FOR A BREW UP BEFORE WE MOVE.

WITH A SKILL BORN OF LONG PRACTICE, BLANCO WHITE PRODUCED MUGS OF HOT, STRONG, SWEET TEA IN NEXT TO NO TIME.

HEY, LOOK, SARGE! HERE COMES THAT FLIPPING YANK ARMoured MOB WE MET UP WITH IN BLIGHTY. I'D KNOW THEIR SIGN ANYWHERE.



WELL, IF IT IS, BLANCO—KEEP YOUR HANDS IN YOUR POCKETS. WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER SCRAP LIKE THAT ONE YOU HAD LAST TIME YOU SAW THEM.

POWERFUL ENGINES THROBBING, THE AMERICAN HALF TRACK SCOUT CARS MOVED SLOWLY ALONG THE NARROW LANE. THEN FROM ONE CAME A LOUD YELL.



HEY, HANK... LOOK WHO'S THERE! IT'S THAT PUG-UGLY LIMEY YOU SWOPPED PUNCHES WITH BACK IN ENGLAND!

WHAT!

BETSY

## The Invisible Enemy

THE CONVOY SLOWED FOR A MOMENT...

HIYA, YOU BIG LUG!  
EVERYTHING STOPS FOR  
TEA, HUH? YOU BRITISHERS  
DON'T KNOW THERE'S  
A WAR ON!

WHY,  
YOU APE...  
STEP DOWN HERE  
AND I'LL FLATTEN  
YOU!



BUT THE ARMoured VEHICLE BEGAN TO PICK UP SPEED AGAIN AND SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS HAD TO RESTRAIN HIS IRATE DRIVER.

SO-LONG, SUCKER...  
SEE YOU IN BERLIN...  
IF YOU EVER  
GET THERE!

HOLD IT,  
BLANCO, HE'S ONLY  
TRYING TO RILE  
YOU!





## The Invisible Enemy

9

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OCCASIONAL CLASHES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AND BRITISH SOLDIERS, IN THE GREAT BATTLE AHEAD THEY WERE UNITED AGAINST THEIR COMMON, SAVAGE FOE.



THE VITAL STRONGPOINT OF CAEN WAS CAPTURED A MONTH AFTER D-DAY...

BY THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST A DANGEROUS GERMAN SALIENT STRETCHING FROM FALAISE TO MORTAIN WAS CUT OFF BY BRITISH, CANADIAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS.



EIGHT GERMAN DIVISIONS WERE ANNIHILATED.

PARIS WAS ENTERED ON AUGUST 26TH. BY GENERAL DE GAULLE AND HIS FREE FRENCH FORCES.

THE GUARDS ARMoured DIVISION LIBERATED BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 3RD.

HITLER'S IMPREGNABLE SEIGFRIED LINE WAS BREACHED NORTH OF AACHEN BY THE FIRST U.S. ARMY IN OCTOBER.





Chapter 2.

# LIMEY VERSUS YANK

THE RACE TO REACH THE RHINE WAS ON AND THE RECCE CORPS WERE, AS USUAL, TO THE FORE.

YOU ARE TO PROBE ALONG THE ROADS TO DUSSEN ON OUR RIGHT FLANK, SERGEANT ROBERTS, AND SEE IF IT IS CLEAR. THE AMERICANS ARE MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

I SEE, SIR... PERHAPS WE CAN GET THERE IN TIME TO WELCOME THEM.



JOHNNY ROBERTS GAVE HIS ORDERS TO THE CORPORALS IN CHARGE OF THE BREN GUN CARRIERS WHICH WERE TO ACCOMPANY HIM AND THEN CLIMBED ABOARD THE HUMBER ARMoured CAR.

DID CAPTAIN LLOYD SAY AMERICANS, SARGE? LUMME, WE CAN'T LET THOSE BIG-MOUTHS GET THERE BEFORE US!



WE'LL SEE, BLANCO... WE'LL SEE,

THE HEAVY ARMoured CAR AND THE CARRIERS MOVED CAUTIOUSLY ALONG THE DUSSEN ROAD WHICH WOUND THROUGH PINE-CLAD HILLS.

TAKE HER SLOWLY TO THE BROW OF THE HILL, DRIVER... AND I'LL HAVE A DEKKO OVER THE TOP.



## The Invisible Enemy

IN A RECCE MAN CAUTION WAS THE SIGN OF EFFICIENCY, NOT OF TIMIDITY.

THAT'S DUSSEN OVER YONDER AND  
THE ONLY LIVING THING IN SIGHT IS  
A CIVVY, COMING THIS WAY.  
PERHAPS HE CAN TELL US IF  
THE JERRIES ARE STILL  
THERE.



PUFFING AND PANTING FROM HIS CLIMB,  
THE ELDERLY, HALF-STARVED BELGIAN  
STUMBLED TO A SHAKY HALT AS HE CAME  
FACE TO FACE WITH THE ARMoured CAR.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, GRANDAD...  
WE'RE BRITISH! NOUS  
SOMMES AMIS, COMPRENEZ?

OUI, OUI,  
M'SIEUR! WELCOME  
...W-WELCOME!



ONCE REASSURED, THE OLD MAN WAS  
EAGER TO HELP THE BRITISH LIBERATORS.

THE BOCHES, M'SIEUR? THEY ARE ALL  
GONE EXCEPT FOR SOME WHO ARE  
GUARDING THE LOWER ROAD.  
IT IS RUMOURED THAT THE  
AMERICANS WILL COME  
THAT WAY.

THE  
LOWER ROAD,  
EH? THANK YOU,  
M'SIEUR!





THIS WAS A MOMENT OF DECISION FOR THE YOUNG SERGEANT. SHOULD HE CARRY ON TO DUSSEN OR TURN ASIDE TO AID THEIR AMERICAN ALLIES? BLANCO WHITE WAS IN NO DOUBT AS TO **HIS** OPINION.

LET'S GET ON TO THE VILLAGE, SARGE. THE YANKS CAN LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BLANCO. THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO...



A REFERENCE TO THE MAP SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A FARM TRACK JOINING THEIR ROUTE WITH THE LOWER ROAD TO THEIR RIGHT. IN A FEW MINUTES THEY WERE BUMPING OVER THE ROUGH PATH.



## The Invisible Enemy

THEY WERE NOW TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE LOWER ROAD...AND THE GERMAN TROOPS COVERING THE AMERICANS' ROUTE.

A NICE LITTLE AMBUSH...IT WOULD CLOBBER THOSE YANKS GOOD AND PROPER! WHILE I ENGAGE THAT GUN, YOU TAKE THE CARRIERS ROUND TO THEIR REAR, BLOKES!

BOY, THERE'S A NASTY SHOCK COMING TO THOSE JERRIES!

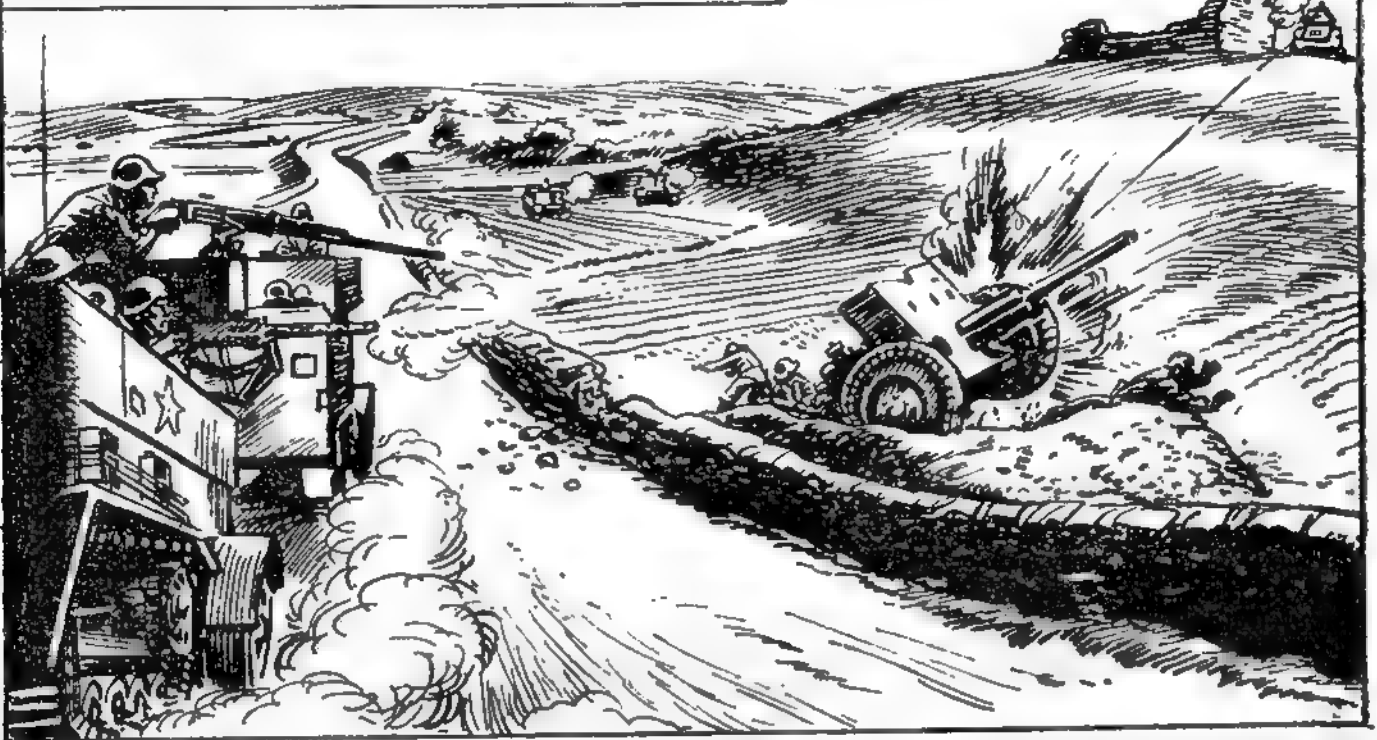
THE GERMANS WERE PEERING TENSELY THROUGH THEIR SIGHTS AT THE AMERICAN SCOUT CARS WHEN JOHNNY'S FIRST ROUNDS HIT THEM.

HIMMEL!  
WE ARE  
TRAPPED!





DESPERATELY THEY TRIED TO SWING THE ANTI-TANK GUN ROUND... BUT THEY WERE TOO SLOW!



THE AMBUSHERS HAD BEEN AMBUSHED! THEN JOHNNY ROBERTS AND HIS CREW STARED IN AMAZEMENT AS THE AMERICAN CARS ROARED ON DOWN THE ROAD WITHOUT EVEN SLOWING.

HEY... LOOK AT THOSE YANKS! GORN STRAIGHT ON WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A 'THANK YOU!'

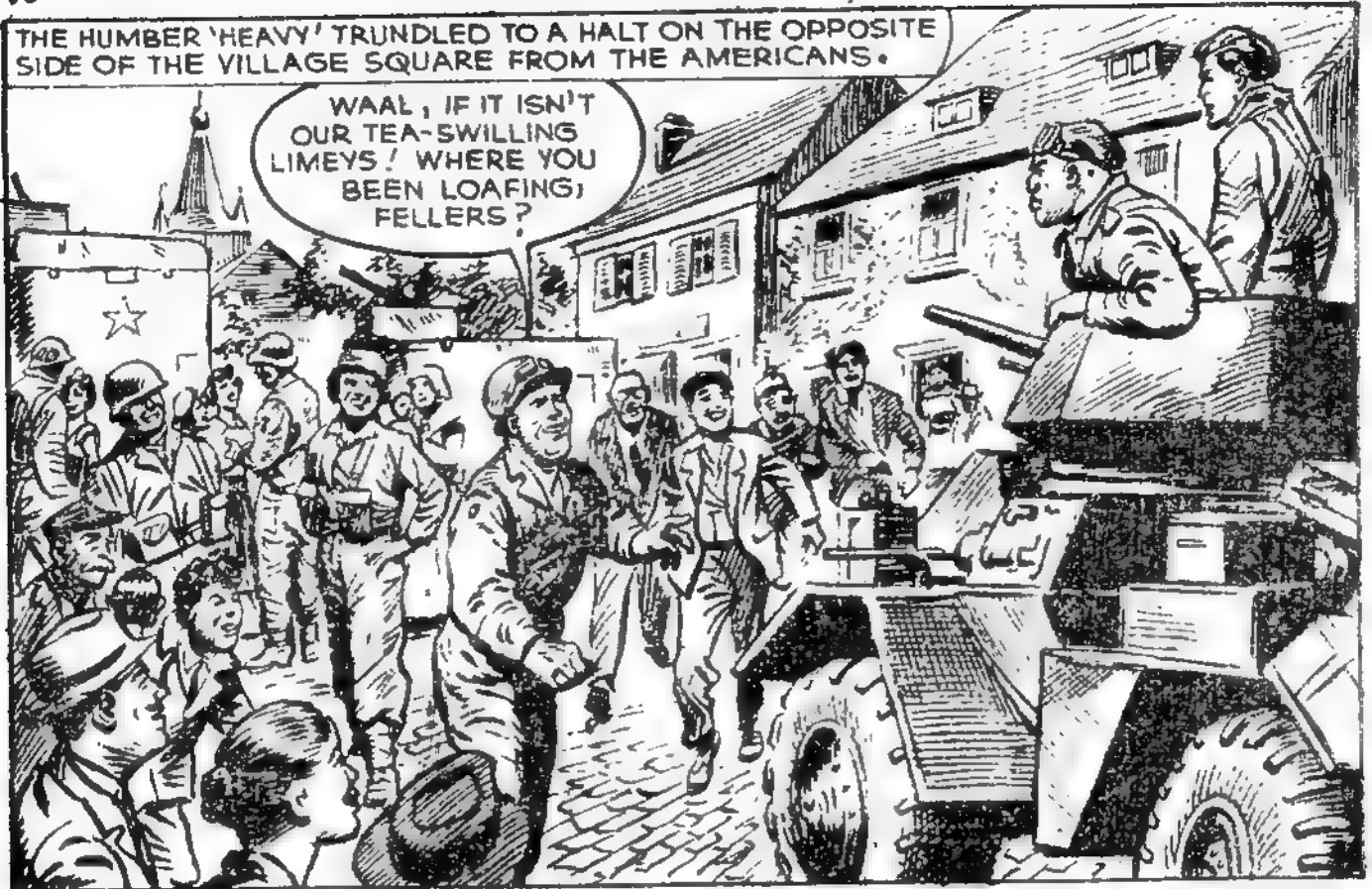


MAYBE THEY DIDN'T EVEN REALISE WE WERE... HERE...

THE BRITISH RECCE COLUMN FORMED UP AND HEADED TOWARDS DUSSEN ONCE MORE.



THE HUMBER 'HEAVY' TRUNDLED TO A HALT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE VILLAGE SQUARE FROM THE AMERICANS.



THIS WAS THE LAST STRAW TO BLANCO WHITE AND BEFORE JOHNNY COULD RESTRAIN HIM, HE HURLED HIMSELF ACROSS THE COBBLES AT THE GRINNING AMERICAN.





IN A MOMENT, THE TWO  
BURLY SOLDIERS WERE  
AT IT, HAMMER AND  
TONGS...

THEY  
ARE CRAZY;  
THESE BRITISH  
AND  
AMERICANS!

FIRST  
THEY FIGHT  
THE BOCHES!  
THEN THEY  
FIGHT EACH  
OTHER!

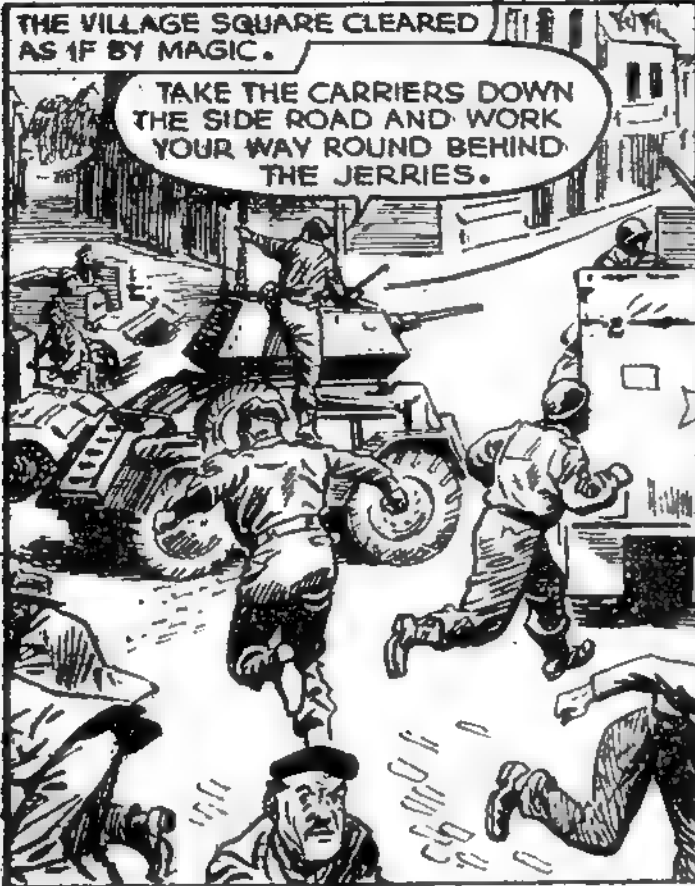
EACH ONE WAS GIVING AS GOOD AS HE RECEIVED WHEN A SHRILL CRY OF  
ALARM RANG OUT FROM THE ROAD LEADING INTO THE SQUARE.

THE BOCHES!  
THE BOCHES!

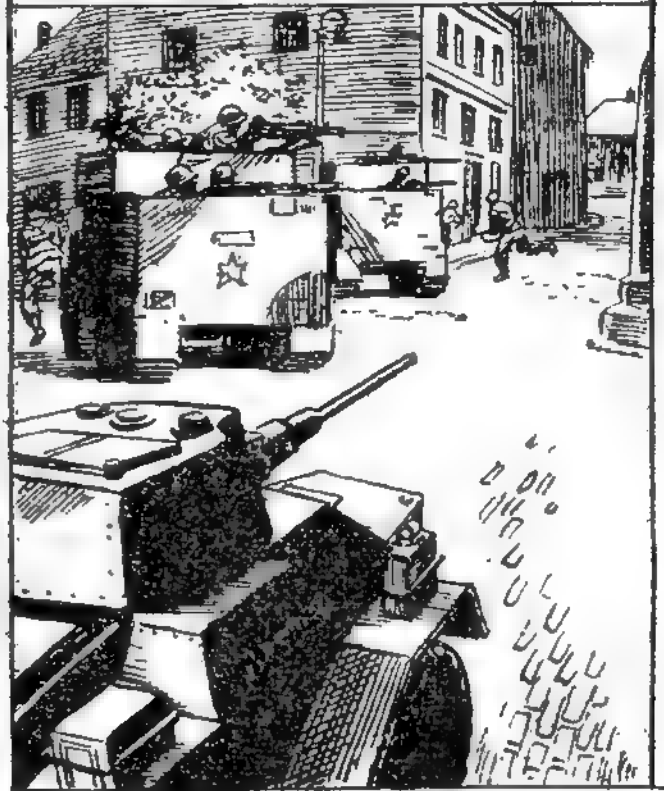
## The Invisible Enemy

THE VILLAGE SQUARE CLEARED AS IF BY MAGIC.

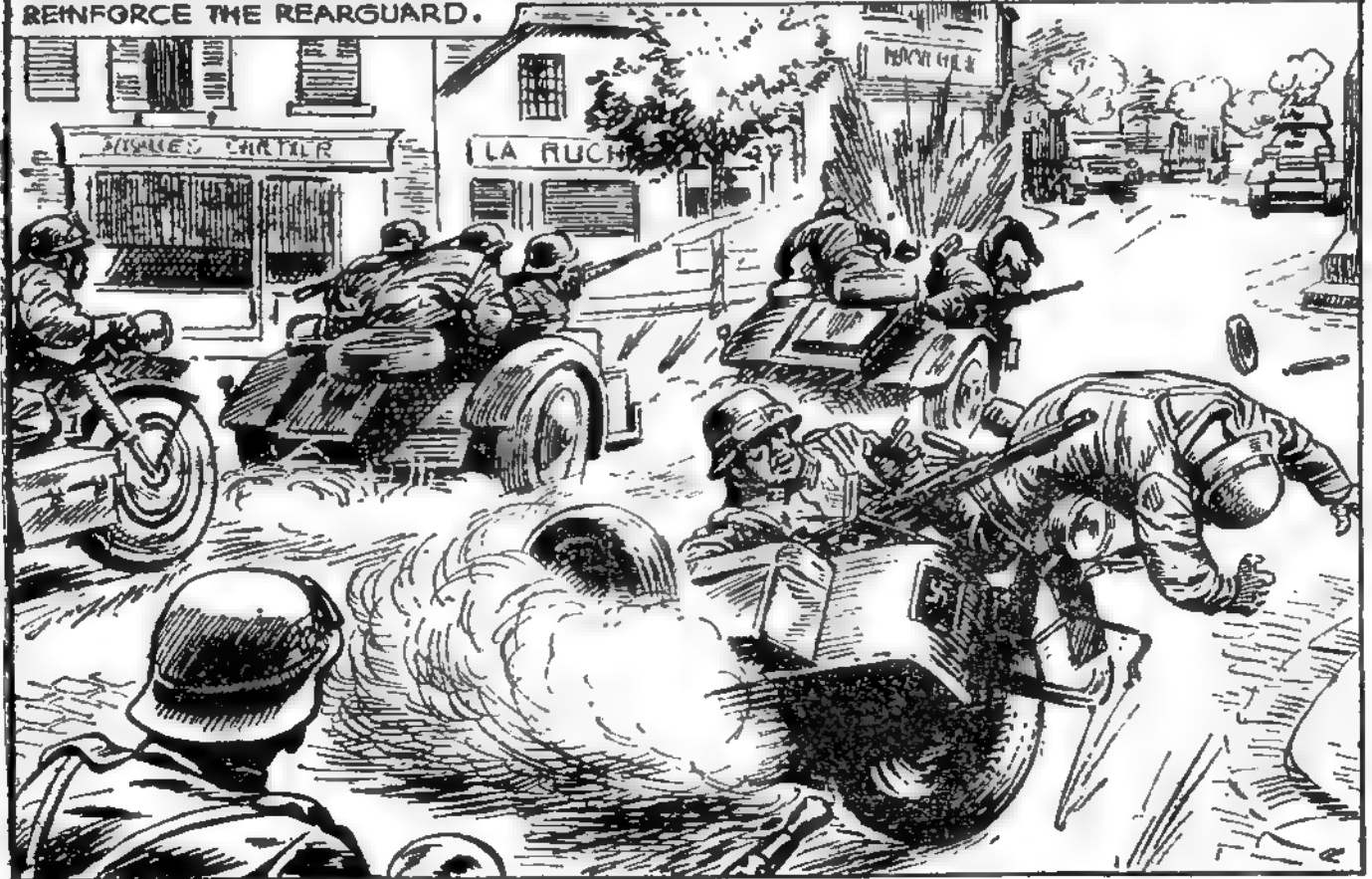
TAKE THE CARRIERS DOWN THE SIDE ROAD AND WORK YOUR WAY ROUND BEHIND THE JERRIES.



AND AS THE BREN CARRIERS CLATTERED OFF BEHIND THE HOUSES, A DEATHLY HUSH DESCENDED UPON THE SQUARE.



THE SOUND OF ENGINES DREW NEAR AND SERGEANT ROBERTS BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF... THEY WERE NOT THE ENGINES OF TANKS. INTO THE OPEN SPACE ROARED A COLUMN OF UNSUSPECTING GERMAN MOTOR CYCLISTS, NO DOUBT ON THEIR WAY TO REINFORCE THE REARGUARD.





THE FIRST FEW MACHINES CRASHED, THEIR CREWS  
KILLED OR WOUNDED, AND THE REAR END OF  
THE COLUMN FRANTICALLY SWUNG ROUND...  
BUT THE BREN CARRIERS BLOCKED THEIR RETREAT.



*The Invisible Enemy*

THE ENEMY MOTORISED COLUMN WAS DESTROYED... SUDDENLY AND UTTERLY... WITHOUT A SINGLE CASUALTY TO THE BRITISH OR AMERICANS.

PERHAPS YOU TWO HOT-HEADS WILL LEARN FROM THAT LITTLE INCIDENT THAT IT'S BETTER TO FIGHT BESIDE EACH OTHER THAN AGAINST EACH OTHER. WE WERE NEARLY CAUGHT NAPPING BECAUSE OF YOU.

YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, SERGEANT... SHAKE ON IT, YOU TWO GUYS!



SHEEPISHLY, THE TWO TOUGH-LOOKING SOLDIERS GRIPPED HANDS.

PITY, I WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY THAT SCRAP.

ME TOO, BUDDY! THAT'S A DANDY LEFT HOOK YOU'VE GOT.





# Chapter 3. HITLER'S FANTASTIC PLAN

THE ALLIES WERE POISED FOR THEIR DRIVE INTO THE HEART OF GERMANY... AND THIS WAS THE MOMENT ADOLF HITLER CHOSE FOR HIS SUPREME GAMBLE.



OTTO SKORZENY, YOUNG GERMAN S.S. OFFICER, ALREADY FAMED FOR HIS INCREDIBLE KIDNAPPING OF MUSSOLINI OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE ALLIES, WAS LED BY HIS FUEHRER OVER TO THE HUGE WALL MAP OF THE EUROPEAN FRONT.



HIS FINGER QUIVERING WITH BARELY SUPPRESSED EXCITEMENT, GERMANY'S EVIL GENIUS POINTED TO THE ARDENNES SECTOR OF THE FRONT.

THE BRITISH DRIVE TO THE NORTH, THE AMERICANS TO THE SOUTH... AND IN THE MIDDLE THERE IS A WEAKLY-HELD GAP. **THERE I SHALL STRIKE!**

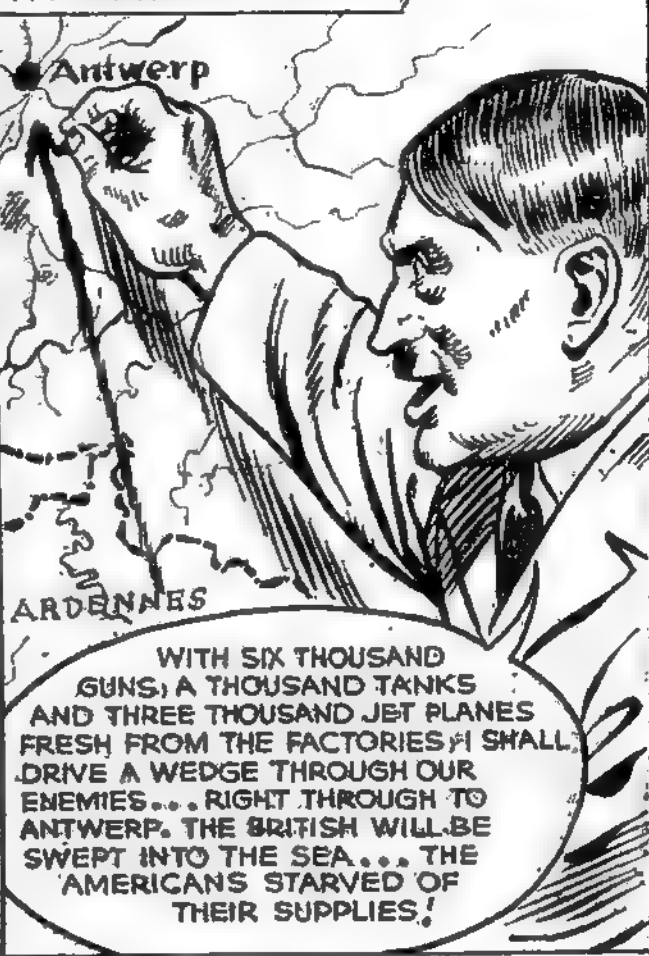


HITLER'S VOICE TOOK ON A FANATICAL NOTE.

Antwerp

ARDENNES

WITH SIX THOUSAND GUNS, A THOUSAND TANKS AND THREE THOUSAND JET PLANES FRESH FROM THE FACTORIES, I SHALL DRIVE A WEDGE THROUGH OUR ENEMIES... RIGHT THROUGH TO ANTWERP. THE BRITISH WILL BE SWEEPED INTO THE SEA... THE AMERICANS STARVED OF THEIR SUPPLIES!



SKORZENY WAS STAGGERED BY THE ENORMITY OF HITLER'S FANTASTIC PLAN. WHAT WAS HIS OWN PLACE IN THIS VAST COUNTER-STROKE? HE WAS SOON TO KNOW...

AND YOU, SKORZENY... YOU WILL SEIZE THE VITAL BRIDGES OVER THE RIVER MEUSE BEFORE THEY CAN BE DESTROYED.

AND WHAT WILL MY COMMAND BE, MEIN FUEHRER?





AND BEFORE THE GERMAN S.S. OFFICER COULD QUESTION THIS ASTOUNDING STATEMENT, ADOLF HITLER RAPIDLY EXPLAINED.

YOU WILL RAISE A BRIGADE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING GERMANS. THEY WILL WEAR AMERICAN UNIFORMS, CARRY AMERICAN WEAPONS, TRAVEL IN AMERICAN VEHICLES. UNQUESTIONED, UNSUSPECTED, THEY WILL DRIVE BOLDLY THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES.



WHEN OTTO SKORZENY LEFT AFTER THAT INTERVIEW WITH HIS LEADER, HIS BRAIN WHIRLED WITH THE STRANGE ASSIGNMENT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN. IT WAS OCTOBER 20TH. AND HE HAD SIX IMPOSSIBLY-SHORT WEEKS IN WHICH TO PREPARE HIS 'INVISIBLE ARMY'. SOON THE ORDER WENT OUT...

  
VERY SECRET: TO DIVISIONAL  
AND ARMY COMMAND ONLY.

OFFICERS AND MEN WHO SPEAK  
ENGLISH ARE WANTED FOR A  
SPECIAL MISSION. VOLUNTEERS  
SELECTED WILL JOIN A NEW  
UNIT UNDER THE COMMAND  
OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL  
SKORZENY, TO WHOSE  
HEADQUARTERS AT  
FRIEDENTHAL, APPLICATION  
SHOULD BE MADE.

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## The Invisible Enemy

THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM ADVENTURE-LOVING YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIERS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECRET OFFENSIVE WENT ON A PACE BEHIND THE GERMAN FRONT LINE. MEANWHILE, MANY OF THE ALLIED TROOPS WERE MOVING OUT OF THE LINE, HAVING BEEN IN ACTION SINCE D-DAY.

OUR DIVISION IS BEING RELIEVED, MEN. WE ARE GOING TO A REST AREA WITH THEM. TROOP SERGEANTS, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR VEHICLES ARE READY TO MOVE BY EIGHT HUNDRED HOURS TOMORROW.



LIGHT-HEARTEDLY, THE RECCE MEN BROKE AWAY TO THEIR ARMoured VEHICLES...

WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF SOME LEAVE IN BRUSSELS, SARGE? THEY SAY YOU CAN HAVE A SMASHING TIME THERE.

NOT A HOPE, BLANCO! IT MAY BE A REST AREA BUT THE DIV'S GOING TO BE IN RESERVE JUST IN CASE OF TROUBLE.



PROMPTLY ON TIME THE NEXT MORNING, THE CONVOY MOVED OFF... AWAY FROM THE GERMAN FRONTIER.



IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO ENTERTAIN AND REST THE MEN WHO HAD SEEN SO MUCH ACTION SINCE THAT FATEFUL JUNE DAY, SIX MONTHS BEFORE.

THERE WERE ENSA SHOWS.

FOOTBALL MATCHES...

CINEMA SHOWS BY THE ARMY FILM UNIT.

CRIKEY! A WAR FILM!

DESSERT VICTORY

ARMY FILM UNIT

DESSERT VICTORY







THE BULKY FIGURE OF BLANCO WHITE, WRAPPED IN A GREATCOAT, CLIMBED THROUGH THE ROPES. JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS HIS SECOND.



GOOD OLD BLANCO!

GIVE HIM WHAT-FOR, MATE!

THE OTHER CORNER WAS EMPTY... BUT INSTINCTIVELY, BLANCO KNEW WHO HIS OPPONENT WOULD BE. AND IT WAS!



WOTCHER, YANK... DIDN'T I HIT YOU HARD ENOUGH LAST TIME?

THIS TIME YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF YOU TOUCH ME, BUDDY!

BOTH MEN WERE BIG, THEY WERE FIT, AND THEY HAD BOXED BEFORE... IT WAS A FIGHT WORTH WATCHING. ROUND ONE... THE AMERICAN WAS ON TOP...



MOIDER HIM, HANK!

AW! YOU JUST WAIT TILL OUR BLOKE LET'S RIP!

*The Invisible Enemy*

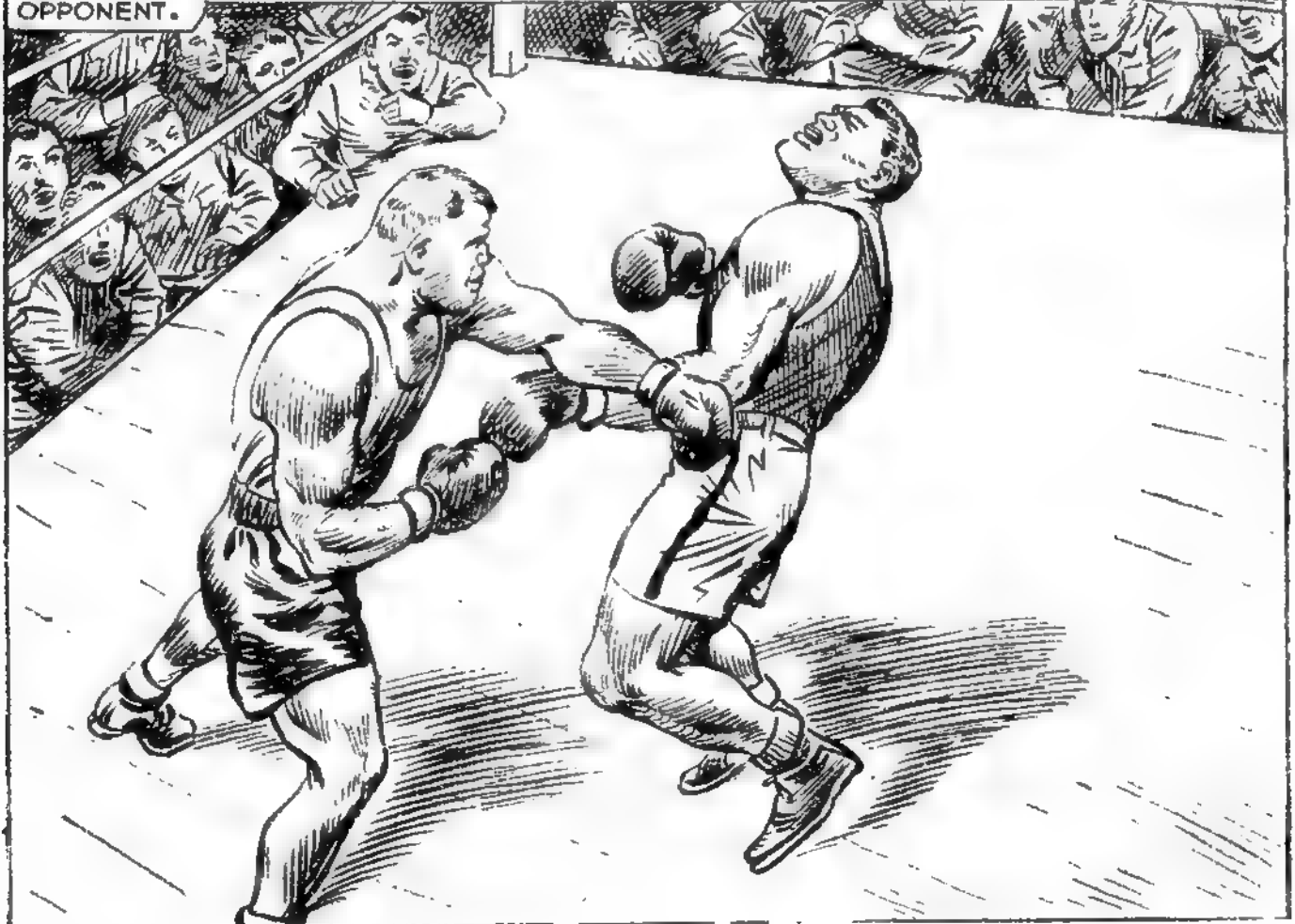
THE BELL WENT AND JOHNNY GAVE HIS MAN ADVICE...  
IT SEEMED, BADLY NEEDED ADVICE.

WATCH OUT  
FOR THAT RIGHT  
OF HIS, BLANCO...  
OR YOU'LL BE DOWN  
FOR KEEPS.

DON'T WORRY  
YOURSELF, SARGE,  
I'VE GOT THE  
MEASURE OF HIM  
NOW... YOU'LL  
SEE!



AND INDEED IT SEEMED IN ROUND TWO THAT THE BRITISH BOXER HAD SIZED UP HIS  
OPPONENT.



THE BOXERS CAME OUT FOR THE LAST ROUND... THE RESULT OF WHICH WOULD DECIDE THE MATCH. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ELECTRIC. THEY TOUCHED GLOVES... THEN...



THE GERMANS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH IN THE ARDENNES! ALL LEAVE IS STOPPED... EVERYONE REPORT BACK TO CAMP IMMEDIATELY!



FOR A SECOND OR TWO THERE WAS A SHOCKED SILENCE... THEN A BABBLE OF EXCITEMENT BROKE OUT. THE TWO BOXERS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER REGRETFULLY.

WOULD YOU ADAM-AND-EVE IT? LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEVER FINISH THIS SCRAP.

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WIN THIS WAR FIRST, PAL.





## The Invisible Enemy

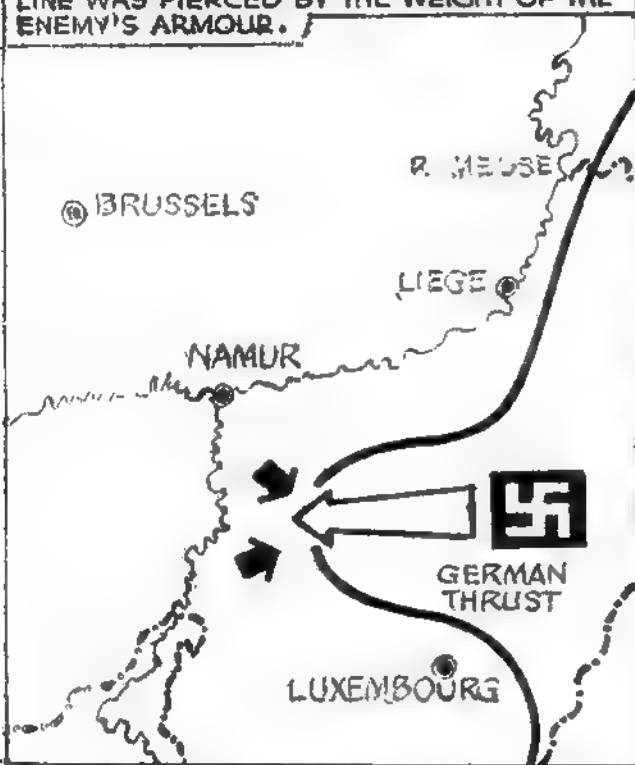
HITLER'S D-DAY HAD COME! THE GREAT OFFENSIVE OPENED...  
THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS ARTILLERY BARRAGE...



AND THEN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH PANZER ARMIES  
MOVED RELENTLESSLY FORWARD.



THE WEAKLY HELD CENTRE OF THE ALLIED LINE WAS PIERCED BY THE WEIGHT OF THE ENEMY'S ARMOUR.



REINFORCEMENTS WERE RUSHED UP TO SLOW THE GERMAN'S ADVANCE AND SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS SOON LEADING HIS RECCE TROOP BACK TOWARDS THE NOW SNOW-COVERED BATTLEFRONT.



NEXT MORNING THEY FOUND THEMSELVES GUARDING A MINOR CROSS-ROAD HALF A MILE BEHIND THE AMERICANS' HASTILY CONSTRUCTED DEFENCES, CLOSE TO THE RUINS OF THE VILLAGE OF VARDINAL.



## The Invisible Enemy

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, THE HALF-FROZEN TROOPERS WERE BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER THEIR LONG VIGIL HAD BEEN UNNECESSARY.

COR! THIS IS NO WEATHER TO LEAVE A DOG OUT, LET ALONE A DELICATE CHARACTER LIKE ME!

DON'T WORRY, BLANCO... THINGS ARE LIKELY TO WARM UP. HERE COME THE JERRIES!



LIKE A PACK OF GREY RATS, THE GERMAN INFANTRY SCUTTLED DOWN THE FAR SLOPE ...





THE CROSSFIRE FROM THE BRENS CUT GREAT SWATHES THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE GERMANS...



TWICE MORE, THE ENEMY TRIED TO CROSS THAT DEADLY STRETCH OF VALLEY... BUT EACH TIME THEY WERE BEATEN BACK.



AN UNEASY SILENCE HUNG OVER THE BATTLEFIELD...AND THEN FRESH HOPE STIRRED THE RECONNAISSANCE MEN...

ANTI-TANK GUNS...  
JUST WHAT THE  
DOCTOR ORDERED!



BUT ONLY THREE GUNS, COMMANDED BY LIEUTENANT MAXTON, R.A., AND A PLATOON OF INFANTRY HAD SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE FORWARD POSITION OVER THE ICY, TREACHEROUS ROADS.

I'LL MOVE  
MY CARRIERS  
TO COVER OUR  
FLANKS, SIR.

FAIR ENOUGH,  
SERGEANT. WE SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO DELAY THEIR TANKS  
FOR A WHILE HERE IF WE DON'T  
GET OUTFLANKED.



AN HOUR LATER, THE POWERFUL 17-POUNDERS WERE IN ACTION...



FOUR GIANT TIGER TANKS WERE MORTALLY HIT AND THE ROAD WAS BLOCKED. THE ENEMY BEGAN TO DEPLOY ACROSS THE SIDE OF THE HILL... AND JOHNNY KNEW THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY FOUND A WAY ROUND.



HELLO JUNO,  
RINO CALLING, TIGER  
TANKS IN STRENGTH  
ATTACKING POSITION.  
WE NEED ARMoured  
REINFORCEMENTS  
URGENTLY.  
OVER.

HELLO RINO,  
JUNO CALLING.  
U.S. TANK COLUMN  
ON WAY TO YOU.  
EXPECT IN ONE  
HOUR. OFF.



## Chapter 4. NAZI TREACHERY

THE GERMAN COUNTERSTROKE WAS GAINING VIOLENT MOMENTUM... AND THE HIGH COMMAND JUDGED THIS WAS THE MOMENT TO LAUNCH THEIR "INVISIBLE ARMY" INTO THE OFFENSIVE.

REMEMBER YOUR ORDERS. DISRUPT THE ENEMY SUPPLY LINES AND ENDEAVOUR TO REACH THE MEUSE BRIDGES ... BUT ON NO ACCOUNT USE VIOLENCE WHILST IN ENEMY UNIFORMS ... OR YOU WILL BE LIABLE TO BE SHOT. ALL GERMAN FORWARD TROOPS ARE TO ALLOW YOU TO PASS THROUGH THE LINES WHEN YOU LIGHT ONE OF THE GREEN FLARES YOU CARRY.



JA, MEIN KAPITAN! IT IS UNDERSTOOD!

INSIDIOUSLY, YET OPENLY, THE ENEMY UNITS SLIPPED INTO THE ALLIED LINES ON THEIR EXTRAORDINARY MISSION.

THAT SIGNPOST! WE WILL TURN IT... PERHAPS WE CAN PERSUADE SOME OF OUR NEW 'COMRADES' TO DRIVE UNSUSPECTINGLY INTO OUR LINES.



THERE WAS LITTLE TRAFFIC IN THAT FROST AND SNOW COVERED AREA AND THE GERMANS WERE ABLE TO SNAP OFF THE SIGNPOST AND PROP IT UP MISLEADINGLY IN A SNOWDRIFT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

QUICKLY, HANS! THERE ARE TANKS COMING! THEY MUST NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING.



AS THE JEEP WAS ABOUT TO MOVE OFF, A SQUADRON OF AMERICAN SHERMAN TANKS CLATTERED UP TO THE CROSSROADS.

HEY, I MUST BE NUTS! SIGNPOST SAYS; VARDINAL STRAIGHT ON... I THOUGHT WE HAD TO TURN OFF HERE.

MAYBE THOSE FELLAS IN THE JEEP KNOW THE WAY, CAP'N!



THE TANK COMMANDER HAILED THE OCCUPANTS OF THE JEEP... THE CRUCIAL TEST OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING GERMANS HAD COME.

HEY, SERGEANT... IS THIS THE ROAD TO VARDINAL?

YEAH, SURE THING, S.I.R... WE'VE JUST COME FROM THERE.



## The Invisible Enemy

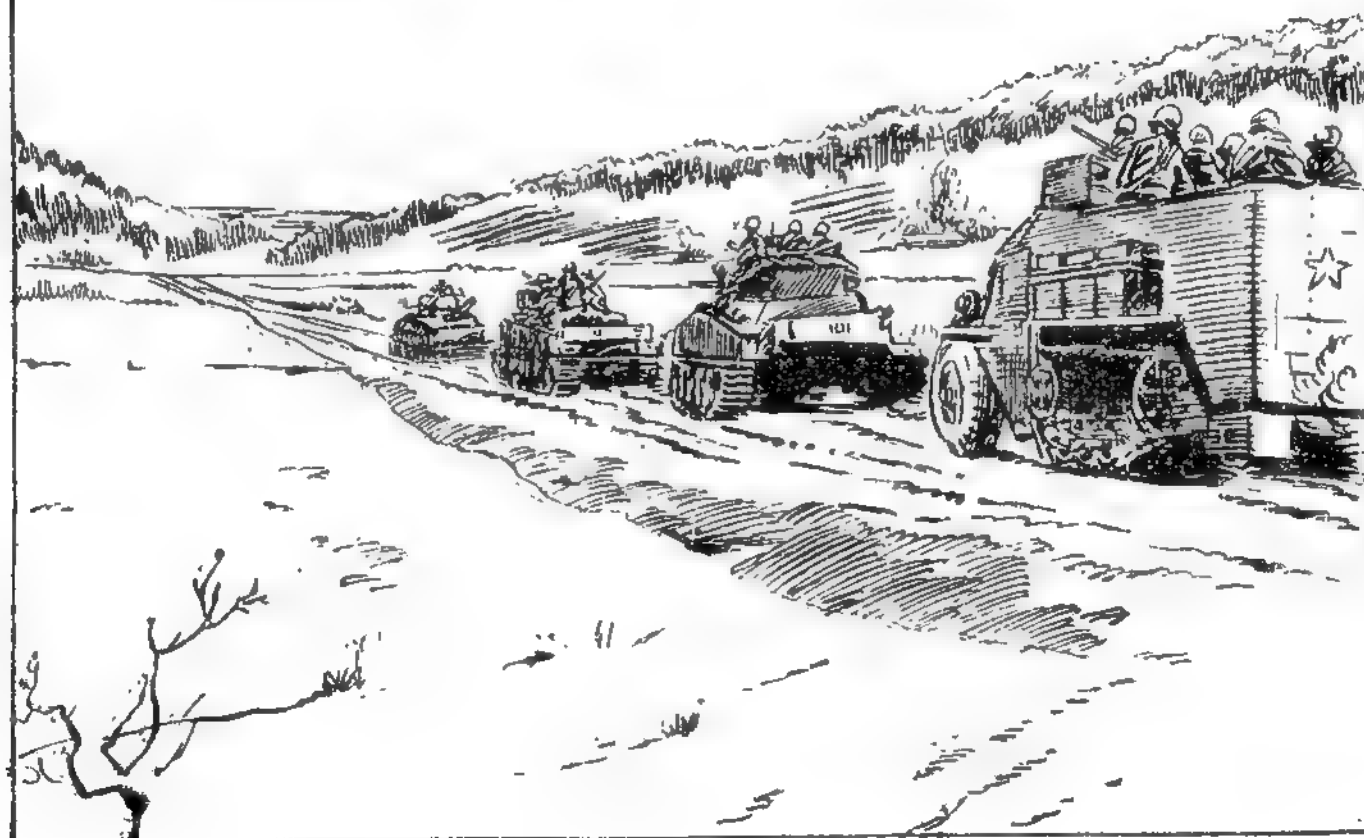
REASSURED AND UNSUSPECTING, THE COLUMN OF ARMOUR MOVED ON...

HIMMEL! THAT WAS EASY... THE POOR FOOLS ARE DRIVING STRAIGHT INTO THE MUZZLES OF OUR GUNS.

JA! NOW WE WILL PUT UP MINE WARNING NOTICES ACROSS THE ROAD AND DELAY ANY HELP REACHING THEM.



SO THE REINFORCEMENTS EXPECTED BY SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS AND HIS MEN IN THEIR OUTPOST WERE HEADING INTO A TRAP.





SUDDENLY THE SIDES OF THAT QUIET VALLEY EXPLODED INTO FIRE AND FURY...



THEIR GUNS HAMMERING DEFIANTLY, THE SHERMANS AND HALF TRACKS TURNED TOWARDS THE WOODED HILLSIDE.



ONLY SEVEN TANKS AND TWO SCOUT CARS REACHED THE COVER OF THE TREES.

THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY ABOUT THIS SET-UP. I WANT YOU TWO SCOUT CARS TO GET TO BLAZES OUT OF HERE WITH THE INFORMATION OF HOW WE WERE MISDIRECTED BY THOSE GUYS IN THE JEEP. THEY'VE LANDED US IN AS HOT A SPOT AS THE BRITISH WE WERE GOING TO RELIEVE.

OKAY, CAP'N... WE'LL DO OUR DARNDDEST.



THE TWO SCOUT CARS BURST FROM THE TREES LIKE GREYHOUNDS OFF THE LEASH AND ROCKETED TOWARDS THE ROAD OUT OF THAT VALLEY OF DEATH.

GET YOUR FOOT DOWN WHEN WE HIT THE ROAD, HANK... THE OTHER TRUCK'S BOUGHT IT.



WHILE THE AMERICANS WERE ATTEMPTING THEIR VALIANT BREAKOUT, SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS AND LIEUTENANT MAXTON, R.A., WERE CONFERRING ON THEIR OWN DESPERATE SITUATION.

H.Q. REPORTS THE TANKS MUST HAVE GONE ASTRAY. SHALL I TAKE THE HUMBER, SIR, AND GO FIND THEM.

YOU'D BETTER DO THAT, SERGEANT. IF WE DON'T GET THAT ARMOUR UP HERE SOON, WE SHALL HAVE TO WITHDRAW AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TO STOP 'EM BEHIND US IN THIS SECTOR.



ITS THIRTY HORSE-POWER ENGINE ROARING, THE HUMBER ARMoured CAR SPED BACK ALONG THE ROAD THROUGH VARDINAL, THE SMALL DESERTED BELGIAN VILLAGE A FEW MILES FROM THEIR POSITION.





## The Invisible Enemy

THEY REACHED THE CROSSROADS WHERE THE TANK COLUMN HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED AND JOHNNY ORDERED THE CAR TO BE PULLED TO A HALT.

HANG ON, BLANCO... THE SNOW ON THAT ROAD'S BEEN CHURNED UP BY TANKS. I'LL SEE WHICH WAY THEY WERE GOING...



A SWIFT CHECK OF THE TRACKS LEFT BY THE TANKS TOLD THE RECCE SERGEANT WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW.

SHERMANS' TRACKS ALL RIGHT... MADE RECENTLY. THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED THE DIRECTION OF THAT SIGNPOST... BUT IT'S POINTING THE WRONG WAY!



TWO MILES AWAY, ONE AMERICAN SCOUT CAR HAD SURVIVED THE GAUNTLET OF ENEMY FIRE AND WAS RETRACING THE ROUTE WHICH HAD TAKEN THE COLUMN INTO THE TRAP.

HEY, CHUCK... SOME GUYS ON THE ROAD AHEAD.

SLOW HER DOWN JOE.



PUZZLED BY THE ACTION OF THE MEN IN THE ROAD, THE AMERICANS HALTED THEIR ARMoured VEHICLE BY THE SIGNBOARD.



THE DISGUISED ENEMY WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD FOR A MOMENT... EVERY NERVE TAUT WITH ALARM.



FOR A BREATHLESS SECOND, THE FIGURES WERE STILLED AS IF FROZEN INTO THAT WINTRY SCENE... **THEN STARK PANIC SEIZED THE IMPOSTORS!**



THE TOMMY GUNS RATTLED VICIOUSLY AS HANK HURLED HIMSELF FORWARD AT THE GERMANS' LEADER...





ONE TREACHEROUS BURST OF FIRE...AND IT WAS OVER.



THE GERMANS STEPPED FORWARD NERVOUSLY.

WE - WE SHOULD NOT HAVE  
D-DONE THAT, MULLER...IF  
WE ARE CAUGHT WE WILL BE  
SHOT AS SPIES!

QUIET, DUMKOPF!  
IF THESE AMERICANS  
HAD LIVED, WE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN CAPTURED  
AND QUESTIONED.  
IMMEDIATELY OUR  
LEADER'S BRILLIANT  
PLAN WOULD HAVE  
BEEN SUSPECTED.



THE FACE OF THE GERMAN NAMED  
MULLER WAS HARD AND RUTHLESS.

TAKE THEIR HELMETS AND  
JACKETS, THEN DUMP THE BODIES  
IN THE JEEP. WE WILL HIDE IT  
AMONGST THE TREES AND TAKE  
OVER THE ARMoured CARRIER.  
IT WILL SUIT US EVEN BETTER  
IF WE CAN REACH THE  
RIVER MEUSE. QUICKLY!  
NOW... SOMEONE  
MAY COME.



INDEED, THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS HUMBER OF SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS EVEN THEN RACING TOWARDS THAT ISOLATED SPOT.



SEEING THE AMERICAN ARMoured HALFTTRACK AT THE ROADSIDE WITH SOME AMERICAN SOLDIERS STANDING BESIDE IT, JOHNNY STOPPED THE HUMBER.



JOHNNY LOOKED ROUND IN SURPRISE AS BLANCO WHITE INTERRUPTED...





THE GERMAN, MULLER, BEGAN TO SPLUTTER AS BLANCO ADVANCED MENACINGLY ON HIM.



JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS ABOUT TO QUESTION BLANCO'S STRANGE BEHAVIOUR WHEN THERE CAME A HOARSE CRY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WOODS.



MULLER TWISTED LIKE AN EEL... BUT  
BLANCO'S FIST SHOT OUT.



THE GERMAN FELL LIKE A POLE-AXED STEER...  
AND HANK RAISED A FEEBLE CHEER.

I ALWAYS SAID  
YOU HAD A DANDY  
LEFT-HOOK,  
LIMEY...UGH!

CATCH HIM, BLANCO...  
I'VE GOT THESE  
OTHERS COVERED!



# The Invisible Enemy

THE RECONNAISSANCE SERGEANT AND BLANCO WHITE STOOPED BESIDE THE AMERICAN WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE HEAD BY MULLER'S PISTOL SHOT.

OUR SHERMANS ARE TRAPPED IN A VALLEY THREE MILES SOUTH. WE BROKE OUT IN BETSY THERE AND STOPPED BY THESE SLIMEY SNAKES. THEY'RE THE SAME GUYS WHO SENT THE SQUADRON INTO THAT VALLEY. THEY SHOT US UP WHEN WE COTTONED ON TO 'EM... MY-MY TWO BUDDIES ARE BACK THERE IN THE TREES... DEAD!



JOHNNY ROBERTS ROSE TO HIS FEET AND THE TWO GERMANS COWERED BEFORE HIS ICE-COLD STARE.

SO YOU'RE SPIES... AND MURDERERS! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LIKES OF YOU, THEY'RE SHOT!

IT WAS MULLER'S FAULT... HE ORDERED US TO DO IT!

HE SAID IF WE DID NOT DO IT, THE FUEHRER'S PLAN WOULD BE RUINED!







THE MENACE OF SUCH A DISGUISED FORCE WAS INSTANTLY RECOGNISED BY THE YOUNG BRITISH SERGEANT, BUT BLANCO WHITE WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN URGENT MISSION.



THOROUGHLY TERRIFIED, THE TWO GERMANS BABBLLED OUT MORE DETAILS OF COLONEL OTTO SKORZENY'S SPECIAL FORCE...DETAILS THAT FITTED PERFECTLY INTO JOHNNY'S SCHEME.

THESE CHARACTERS ARE EXPECTED TO CAPTURE OUR VEHICLES IF THEY CAN, AND BY SHOWING A GREEN FLARE, THEY WILL BE ALLOWED BACK THROUGH THE GERMAN LINES. WELL, THEY CAN CAPTURE THESE TWO CARS HERE!

WHAT D'YOU MEAN, SARGE?

YEAH, WHAT'S THE IDEA, SERGEANT?



THEY CAN TAKE THE HALF TRACK AND THE HUMBER BACK THROUGH THEIR LINES...BUT WE'LL BE INSIDE THEM, AT THE GUNS! MAYBE THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE OF GETTING THE SHERMANS OUT OF THAT TRAP!

THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE. JOHNNY TOOK THE LEAD IN THE BRITISH ARMoured CAR WITH ONE GERMAN STANDING IN THE TURRET AND THE FANATICAL NAZI, MULLER, TRUSSED INSIDE. BLANCO WAS AT THE WHEEL OF THE HALF TRACK WITH THE OTHER GERMAN, WHO WAS COVERED BY A PISTOL IN THE HAND OF HANK, HIDDEN BENEATH A TARPUL W.

## Chapter 5. BREAK-OUT

SOON, THE GERMANS ESTIMATED THAT THEY WERE NEARING THEIR OWN TROOPS AND HASTILY SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD LIGHT THEIR GREEN FLARES.

LIGHT THE FLARE.  
DON'T FORGET, ONE  
FALSE MOVE WHEN  
WE MEET YOUR TROOPS  
AND YOU'LL BE  
A DEAD MAN!

JA, JA!  
IT IS  
UNDERSTOOD!



THE SOUNDS OF THE BATTLE PUT UP BY THE BESIEGED AMERICAN TANKS REACHED THE MEN IN THE TWO ALLIED CARS AS THEY TRUNDLED BOLDLY TOWARDS THE UNITS OF THE ENEMY'S COUNTERSTROKE.

SHALL  
I GIVE THE  
ORDER TO FIRE  
MEIN  
OBERLEUTNANT?

NEIN, NEIN!  
SEE, THEY CARRY THE  
'IDENTITY LIGHTS WE  
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS  
ABOUT. THEY ARE  
TO BE LET PASS!





THE ALLIED ARMoured VEHICLES DROVE BOLDLY PAST ENEMY SCOUT CARS AND INFANTRY... AND STILL THEY WERE NOT CHALLENGED.



THE ROAD AHEAD DIPPED INTO A VALLEY... AND FOR A FEW MOMENTS THE BATTLEGROUND WAS CLEARLY SPREAD BEFORE THEM. THEN A GERMAN OFFICER SIGNALLED THE HUMBER TO HALT...

THERE ARE THE TANKS... AND HERE COULD BE TROUBLE!



ANSWER RIGHT, JERRY... OR YOU'LL BE A DEAD HERO!

THE ALLIED SOLDIERS HELD THEIR BREATHS...THEIR FINGERS ON THEIR TRIGGERS.WOULD THE DISGUISED GERMAN PLUCK UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO REVEAL THEIR PRESENCE?

WE ARE SOLDIERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCE OF COLONEL SKORZENY WITH TWO CAPTURED VEHICLES, HERR MAJOR.

YOU WILL BE DEAD SOLDIERS IF YOU CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD.YOU MUST TAKE THE TRACK TO THE RIGHT WHILE WE DESTROY THESE AMERICAN SCUM!



THE HUMBER AND THE AMERICAN HALF TRACK BUMPED OFF THE ROAD ON TO THE NARROW, RUTTED FOREST TRACK... AND JOHNNY BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF AND EXULTATION.

THEY'RE PLAYING INTO OUR HANDS... THIS TRACK LOOKS AS IF IT LEADS UP THE HILL CLOSE TO THEIR ANTI-TANK GUNS. KEEP GOING, DRIVER.



THEY PASSED LIMBERS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE GERMAN GUNS AND CURIOUS GLANCES WERE THROWN AT THE TWO ALLIED VEHICLES... BUT THEY WERE NOT STOPPED.

THIS IS IT! PULL UP WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, DRIVER...AND HELP ME LOAD THE GUN.



## The Invisible Enemy

THE BRITISH ARMOURD CAR BRAKED QUIETLY TO A HALT AND THE HALF TRACK DID THE SAME. THE GERMAN IN JOHNNY'S CAR GAVE A STRANGLED GROAN AND SUDDENLY SCRAMBLED DOWN FROM THE TURRET.



THE GERMAN GUNNERS REACTED TO THE WARNING SHOUT WITH A PANICKY BURST OF RIFLE FIRE WHICH CUT DOWN THEIR OWN MAN AS HE RAN TOWARDS THEM. THEN THE HUMBER'S GUN CRASHED INTO ACTION...





WITH CALM, DEADLY PRECISION THE BRITISH ARMoured CAR WRECKED THE ANTI-TANK BATTERY... WHILE THE LIGHTER, QUICK-FIRING GUNS OF THE HALF TRACK HELD OFF THE BEWILDERED GERMANS.



THE HUMBER NOSED FORWARD TO THE EDGE OF THE SHATTERED BATTERY POSITION.



THE COMMANDER OF THE TRAPPED AMERICAN TANK SQUADRON HAD BEEN PUZZLED BY THE NOISY ACTION ON THE HILL TOP OPPOSITE.



THE IMPLICATION OF WHAT HE SAW BEFORE HIM SUDDENLY HIT THE TANK OFFICER...

THOSE BOYS HAVE BUSTED UP THE JERRY GUNS! GET THE TRACKS A'TURNING... WE'RE MOVING OUT!



WITH HOPE RENEWED, THE SURVIVING SHERMANS PLUNGED DOWN THE SNOW COVERED SLOPE...AND ONLY INEFFECTUAL SHOTS FROM DISTANT ENEMY GUNS OPPOSED THEIR PASSING.

AFTER YOU, CHUM!

THANKS, FELLERS! TUCK IN BEHIND US AND WE'LL GET TO BLAZES OUTA HERE!



TERROR SEIZED THE ENEMY TROOPS ON THE ROAD OUT OF THE VALLEY... THEIR PREY HAD TURNED VENGEFULLY ON THEM.



*The Invisible Enemy*

AS THE SHERMANS CLATTERED TOWARDS THE FATEFUL CROSSROADS WHERE THEY HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED, JOHNNY PULLED OUT BESIDE THE LEADING TANK.



ONLY A FEW INFANTRY REINFORCEMENTS HAD REACHED THE HILLSIDE DEFENCE POSITIONS BEYOND THE VILLAGE OF VARDINAL... AND THE GERMAN ARMOUR WAS ATTACKING THEM FIERCELY.





LIKE MONSTROUS BLACK BEETLES, THE TIGER TANKS CRAWLED UP THE WHITE BLANKETED HILL . . .



IT SEEMED THAT NOTHING COULD STOP THOSE REMORSELESS PANZERS, BUT SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS HAD LED THE AMERICAN SHERMANS ROUND TO THE ENEMY'S FLANK.



THE SURPRISE WAS COMPLETE. THE ENEMY WERE BATTERED, DEMORALISED AND BEATEN.



AT LAST, A TERRIBLE SILENCE FELL OVER THE BATTLEFIELD. THE GERMAN SPEARHEAD HAD BEEN TURNED AND BLUNTED AS IT HAD ALL ALONG THE LINE OF ADOLF HITLER'S TREMENDOUS ARDENNES COUNTER OFFENSIVE.



WELL DONE, HANK... YOUR BOYS DID A GRAND JOB!

BUT FOR YOU BRITISHERS; WE'D HAVE BEEN SO MUCH SCRAP METAL. WE'LL NOT FORGET THAT! THANKS, SERGEANT!

BLANCO WHITE AND HIS AMERICAN COMRADE IN ARMS GRINNED AT EACH OTHER.

YOU'D BETTER GET YOURSELF FIT, HANK BOY... SO I CAN KNOCK THAT BLOCK OF YOURS OFF AGAIN..

DON'T KID YOURSELF, LIMEY... THAT LEFT HOOK'S NOT BAD BUT YOU'RE A SUCKER FOR A RIGHT CROSS!





## The Invisible Enemy

THE INVISIBLE ARMY OF OTTO SKORZENY HAD ALSO FAILED. THE GERMAN THRUST NEVER REACHED THE RIVER MEUSE... THE DISGUISED AGENTS BETRAYED THEMSELVES AND WERE ROUNDED UP. IT WAS ALMOST THE LAST OFFENSIVE OF THE MIGHTY GERMAN WAR MACHINE.



AND LEADING THE DRIVE INTO GERMANY ITSELF WAS THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS, THE EYES AND THE EARS OF THE ARMY...

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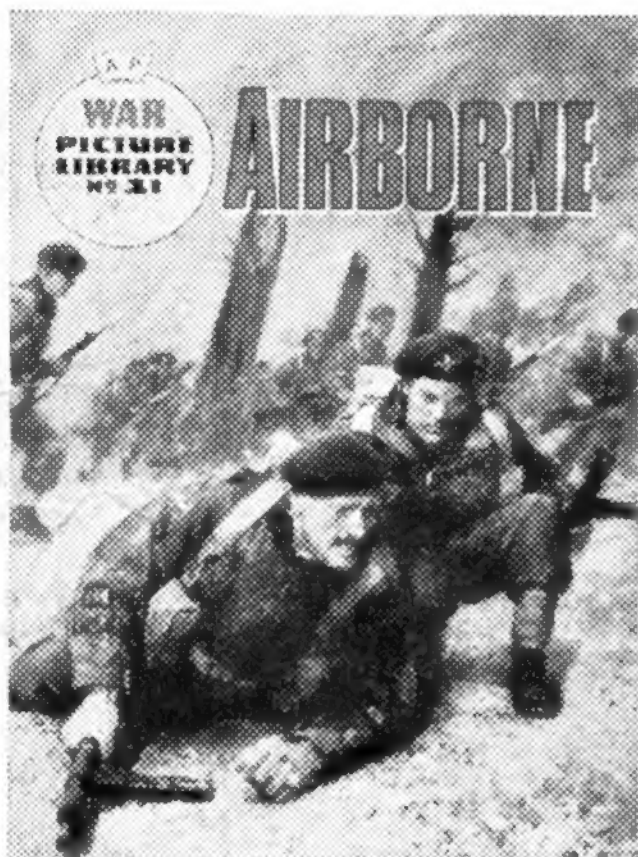
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